- 2 -

Commissioner for Patents   09/594,169

LISTING OF DISCLOSURE AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 20, line 26 and ends on page 21, line 13 of the specification with the following:

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a focus setting determination is achieved by selecting the focus setting used in capturing a best focus image from a series of images captured at monotonically varying focus settings. The auto-focus algorithm positions the sample die 20 (Fig. 1) by moving the optical stage 100 along the vertical axis 102 (Fig. 3) at focus settings below and above a current focus setting. A coarse focus search is first performed by moving the optical stage 100 in coarse increments. The optical stage 100 is then moved in ~~final~~ fine increments for a ~~final~~ fine focus search. Images in the series are captured at each focus increment. A focus measure is derived from each image in the series. Preferably, the focus measure is an image sharpness measure, but other focus measures can also be used. Various algorithms for calculating the sharpness of an image are known to persons skilled in the art. The auto-focus algorithm uses the focus measure to select the best focused of the images in the series. The variation in the focus measure may be monotonically varying or peaked.